

REMARKS

Further to the reply of April 24, 2009, which was filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b)(1) to address a new ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 that was entered by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, applicants submit the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-50 are pending, with claims 1, 28, 42 and 44 being independent. Claims 1, 28, 42, 43-46, 49, and 50 have been amended. Claim 1 was amended in the reply of April 24, 2009. Applicant understands that those amendments have been entered. Thus, claim 1 shown in the listing above includes the amendments made in the April 24, 2009 reply.

Applicants thank Examiner Tran for contacting the undersigned on June 16, 2009 and June 18, 2009 to discuss amendments to place this application in condition for allowance. During the interviews, Examiner Tran and the undersigned discussed independent claims 1, 28, 42, and 44. Examiner Tran indicated that this application would be completely in condition for allowance if amendments such as those shown above were made. Thus, the amendments are believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Applicants ask that the foregoing amendments be entered and that this case pass to allowance. Should any additional issues arise with respect to this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due at this time. Nonetheless, please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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